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Subject: November Farm Labor Jobs

Field Distribution: War Board Members, AAA Committeemen, Extension Editors,
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Suggested Use: Background information

November will be another busy month for farm labor in many parts of the country. Nearly 600 million man-hours will be required to do the major farm crop work, most of which will be harvesting and preparing commodities for market.

The biggest single job will be cotton picking in the 19 cotton-producing States, where it will require about 270 million man-hours to bring the fleecy staple in from the fields. While some difficulty is being encountered in obtaining sufficient hands to pick cotton in Arizona, the problem in general over the Cotton Belt seems to be well in hand. Arizona, which produces nearly two-thirds of the U.S. long-staple cotton, needs thousands of extra workers to gather this important wartime crop. Many migrant workers normally used for this job are not available this year. However, calls have been sent out to neighboring States, and it is expected that the demand for workers will be met.

The second big harvesting job in November is in the Midwest, where about 120 million man-hours will be required to harvest the Corn Belt's portion of this year's 3-billion-bushel corn crop -- third largest on record. About two-thirds of the crop is produced in the eight Corn Belt States. Soybean harvesting in the Corn Belt also will require 12 million man-hours.

Other farm labor problems may arise in the harvesting of apples in Washington, California, and Idaho and sugar beets throughout the western sugar-beet area. It is estimated that each job will require about 6 million man-hours during November.

The BAE Farm Labor Report for October estimates that 11,938,000 persons were working on farms of the country on the first of October. This represents a slight increase over a year ago and is 3 percent above September 1 of this year. However, it is about 2 percent less than the October average for the past 5 years. Of this total number, about 8,834,000 were family workers and 3,104,000 were hired workers.

The number of farm workers was higher on October 1 of this year than on last July 1, although the October number is usually smaller than the July figure. The larger number this fall is largely accounted for by sharp gains in farm employment in the South Central States, where cotton picking got into full swing slightly earlier than usual and where the weather generally was favorable for outdoor work.

Major Farm Labor Needs in November

<u>Area</u>	<u>Estimated man-hours needed</u>
<u>General Farming Area</u> (Del., Ky., Md., southern N.J., northern N.C., southern Ohio, southern Pa., Tenn., Va., W. Va.)	
Corn - harvesting.....	40,000,000
Peanuts - harvesting.....	4,500,000
Tobacco - preparing and marketing.....	23,000,000
<u>Cotton Belt</u> (Ala., Ark., Ga., La., Miss., southern N.C., eastern Okla., S.C., eastern and central Tex., Ariz., Calif., N. Mex.)	
Tobacco - preparing and marketing (Ga., N.C., S.C.)	25,000,000
Cotton - picking (also Ariz., N. Mex., Calif.)...	270,000,000
Peanuts - harvesting.....	5,000,000
Corn - harvesting.....	60,000,000
<u>Corn Belt</u> (Ill., Ind., Iowa, northeastern Kans., northern Mo., eastern Nebr., northwestern Ohio, southeastern S. Dak.)	
Corn - harvesting.....	120,000,000
Soybeans - harvesting.....	12,000,000
<u>Special Areas</u>	
Apples - harvesting (Calif., Idaho, Wash.).....	6,000,000
Sugar beets - harvesting (Ariz., Calif., western Colo., Idaho, Mich., Mont., northwestern Nebr., Nev., N. Mex., Ohio, western S. Dak., southwestern Tex., Utah, Wyo.).....	6,000,000
Tomatoes - harvesting (Calif., Fla.).....	400,000
Citrus fruits - picking and hauling (Calif., Fla., Tex.)	3,400,000
Snap beans - harvesting (Calif., Fla.).....	1,200,000
Miscellaneous vegetables - harvesting (Calif.)...	4,000,000